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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A STRATEGY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN FARMING.

1 WHEREAS, local agriculture is critical to self-sufficiency  
2 and food security for the State; and  
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4 WHEREAS, about eighty-five to ninety percent of Hawaii's  
5 food is imported, which makes Hawaii particularly vulnerable to  
6 natural disasters and global events that disrupt shipping and  
7 other modes of transporting food; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii does not have an adequate-sized farming  
10 workforce for expansion of cultivated agricultural lands and  
11 food production; and  
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13 WHEREAS, a primary cause of the shortage of new farmers in  
14 Hawaii during the past several decades is the decline of support  
15 for agriculture education from state government, resulting in an  
16 insufficient interest in pursuing the fields of agriculture and  
17 natural resource management among youth; and  
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19 WHEREAS, in order to meet the State's aspirations for  
20 increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of  
21 local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for  
22 local markets will need to increase significantly; and  
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24 WHEREAS, agriculture education and interest are key to the  
25 development of future farmers and to a society that values and  
26 understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and  
27 natural resource systems in advancing personal, local, and  
28 global well-being; now, therefore,  
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
32 Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and



1 University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture  
2 and Human Resources are requested to create a strategy for  
3 students to learn about modern farming; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at  
6 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources serve  
7 as the lead agency in creating the strategy; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at  
10 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,  
11 Department of Agriculture, and Department of Education, are  
12 requested to consider modern farming technologies, including  
13 methods and techniques of modern farming related to aquaponics,  
14 hydroponics, machinery, soil and water sensors, weather  
15 tracking, satellite imaging, pervasive automation,  
16 minichromosomal technology, radio-frequency identification  
17 technology, greenhouse technology, and vertical farming; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy is requested to  
20 include a plan for new curriculum that is appropriate for  
21 students in the public school system in grades six through  
22 twelve; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy is requested to  
25 also include proposals to address land tenure issues for farmers  
26 including but not limited to long-term land leases and  
27 infrastructure concerns; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy is requested to  
30 include information gathered from other countries that have  
31 adopted modern agricultural practices that have resulted in  
32 higher yields, greater productivity, lower input costs, and  
33 increased profitability for farmers; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at  
36 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in  
37 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Department  
38 of Education, is requested to submit a report of its findings  
39 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
41 the Regular Session of 2020; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board  
4 of Agriculture, and Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
5 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.  
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